

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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TOMATO PURCHASES UNDER WAY

Invitations for Offers on Futures to Follow Request for Tenders of Spot Stocks

Announcement of the plans of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation to purchase 15,000,000 cases of canned tomatoes during the 15 months ending in June, 1942, has brought to the Association many inquiries from canners regarding the purpose of the program, the basis on which it will be conducted, and the relation of the program to the industry's ordinary operations, as well as many questions concerning details of the buying methods.

Invitations for offers of spot stocks already have gone out to tomato canners. Invitations for offers on futures are expected to go out soon. These invitations furnish details as to grades, sizes, delivery, quality, packaging and marking, performance bonds, payment, etc. However, it seems desirable to give the industry further information than was furnished in last week's INFORMATION LETTER regarding the basic principles on which the purchasing program was developed.

Basis of the Purchasing Program

The plan for purchases by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation of food supplies for Great Britain and other nations resisting aggression, with money made available under provisions of the Lend-Lease Act, is set up as part of the general program of the Surplus Marketing Administration.

As announced by the Department of Agriculture:

"The government's purchases will be used to accumulate reserve supplies of food. These supplies can be used for

transfer to the British and other countries under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act; for release upon the market in case of unwarranted speculative price increases; to meet requests from the Red Cross for shipment to war refugee areas; and for direct distribution through school lunch programs or through State welfare departments to public aid families."

The purchasing program may thus be used (1) to remove burdensome surpluses from commercial channels in order to support farm prices; (2) to prevent an undue rise in prices by distribution of reserve supplies in case of speculation or shortage in production; (3) to stimulate production so as to avoid possible food shortages. The long-time program is covered by the first two objectives; the third objective has developed from the present emergency in which the United States has undertaken to supply Great Britain with food under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act.

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FIBRE BOX SPECIFICATIONS

Changes Proposed by Manufacturers and by Carriers in Amending Rule 41

Under a proposal made by the railway carriers to amend Rule 41 of the Consolidated Freight Classification, cans of seven inches or more in height, including the tall 46 ounce can and the No. 10 can, would be packed in boxes made of solid fibreboard or of double-faced or double-walled B-flute corrugated board, with level surfaces at top and bottom of box, and with vertical partitions between cans. Hearings on this proposal, as well as another proposal offered by the board and box manufacturers, will be held at New York on May 6, at Chicago on May 13, and at San Francisco on May 20. The hearings are informal and are continuous, with no application necessary to be heard.

Another proposal of the carriers would require the packing of all cans larger than a No. 2 can in fibreboard boxes made of solid fibreboard or of a double-faced or double-walled B-flute corrugated board. This proposal also would require that boxes be provided with level surfaces inside both top and bottom.

The proposal of the board and box manufacturers provides for the use of four new boxes, eliminates dimension limits, does not provide weight per thousand square feet of board, and changes requirements of strength for present boxes.

The carriers also have presented a proposal to cancel Rule 41 from the classification, because of increasing pressure on rail carriers caused by competition from other modes of transportation that have no package specifications. However, if Rule 41 were cancelled, it would still remain the shipper's duty to prepare his merchandise for shipment in such manner as to protect it adequately against the normal and ordinary shocks of transportation. If the shipper

The National Canners Association has long followed the policy of publishing in its INFORMATION LETTER only reports and information derived from sources it considers authoritative. It has not attempted to forecast either policies or actions, nor has it given circulation to mere rumors and conjectures.

The Association will continue this policy. Each issue of the LETTER will present such reliable information as is available at the time of publication. With events now moving so rapidly, the facts as of one day may not correctly represent the situation as of the next day. The LETTER will, however, furnish a record that each member should read regularly and carefully.

In meeting the new situations as they arise, the Association cannot undertake to make decisions for the individual canner; however, it will endeavor to furnish as complete information as possible to aid him in exercising sound judgment.

failed in that duty, the carrier would not be liable for any resulting loss or damage.

In conjunction with the contemplated revision of Rule 41, the carriers propose also to inquire into the need for continuance of the numerous exceptions to Rule 41 that are published in the classification for various individual articles. If either Proposal No. 1, offered by the box manufacturers, or Proposal No. 2, offered by the carriers, is adopted, any of the special containers described in these exceptions will become standard containers under revised Rule 41, and all such "exceptions" will be cancelled.

If Rule 41 is wholly cancelled, as contemplated by Proposal No. 3, the present exceptions to Rule 41 in the classification will necessarily be cancelled also, although there may be need for the retention of container specifications for certain articles.

A memorandum on the changes proposed in Rule 41 has been sent to the Association by A. H. Greenly, chairman of the Classification Simplification Committee. This memorandum is as follows:

PROPOSAL No. 1

This eliminates dimension limits and does not provide weight per thousand square feet of board.

It adds a new small box for 20 lbs. testing 150 lbs. made of corrugated board, the caliper of both facings of which is not less than .024 or of .040 2-ply solid board.

It provides for .060 2-ply solid board for the 40 lb. box whereas the present rule requires 3-ply of the same thickness.

It also provides for the use of .070 solid board for the 65 lb. box instead of .080 at present required.

For the 90 lb. box it provides for the use of .080 solid board instead of .100 and for double-faced corrugated with facings the combined caliper of which are not less than .046. Present requirement is .060.

It adds three new boxes for 120, 140 and 160 lbs., respectively.

The other sections of the rule are not changed, except to eliminate the requirement from Section 2 that solid board must be made of 3 plies or more. It also makes change in Section 12 by providing that "Average of six tests must not be lower than bursting test shown in certificate on box." It eliminates from the present Section 12 the sentence "In testing double-faced corrugated fibreboard the material must not be crushed."

PROPOSAL No. 2

This proposal includes dimension limits and minimum weights per thousand square feet of board. In connection with the dimension limits it provides that if the gross weight is reduced the dimensions may be increased the same percentage that the weight is reduced.

It adds a new small box for 15 lbs. gross, not exceeding 40 united inches inside dimensions, made of .045 3-ply solid board or of double-faced corrugated board with facings the combined caliper of which is not less than .024 and board must test not less than 150 lbs. In connection with the 40 lb. box there is no change from present except to add weight per thousand square feet of board.

It proposes that the 65 lb. box may be increased from 65 to 90 united inches and that it may be made of .070 solid board instead of .080.

The 90 lb. box is increased from 70 to 100 united inches. It may be made of .090 solid board instead of .100. It may also be made of double-faced corrugated with facings the

combined caliper of which is not less than .046 instead of .060.

It adds boxes for 120 and 140 lbs. gross.

Corresponding changes have been made for other styles of boxes.

The minimum weight per thousand square feet of board is based on 26 lbs. per thousand square feet for Kraft corrugating material and 32 lbs. for straw, also 12 lbs. per thousand square feet for silicate adhesive. Note 1 in Proposal 2 provides for alteration of these weights when starch adhesive or silicate-clay adhesive is used instead of silicate.

It proposes that articles in cylindrical metal cans larger than a No. 2 can must be in fibreboard boxes made of solid fibreboard or of a double-faced or double-wall B-flute corrugated board and that boxes must be provided with level surfaces inside both top and bottom.

It provides that articles in cylindrical cans exceeding 50 cubic inches, volume fill, which are 7 inches or more in height must be in fibre boxes made of solid fibreboard or of double-faced or double-wall B-flute corrugated board—that such boxes must be provided with level surfaces inside both top and bottom and cans must be separated from each other by vertical partitions made of solid fibreboard or pulpboard not less than .045-inch thick or double-faced B-flute corrugated board with facings not less than .009-inch thick. This provision includes a tall 46 oz. can which is used for fruit juices and upon which there is considerable damage. It also includes the No. 10 can which has been used for many years.

This proposal very materially reduces and simplifies the requirements as to sealing and construction, etc.

In a number of cases where the use of solid board had been required provision has been made for the use of double-faced corrugated board as well.

Section 6 of this proposal increases the gross weight for glassware or other fragile articles packed in fibre boxes from 65 to 90 lbs., but does not increase the weight for articles in glass or earthenware packed in fibre boxes.

Section 12 proposes changes in the method of making Mullen Tests.

Further information and a copy of the special docket containing the three proposals relative to Rule 41 can be secured from the Classification Simplification Committee, 202 Chicago Union Station, Chicago, Ill.

Use of Canned Fish in Memphis Homes

Canned salmon was on the pantry shelves of 31 per cent of the 2,254 homes in Memphis, Tenn., metropolitan area surveyed during March and April of 1940, while canned tuna-fish was present in 23 per cent of the homes. The home inventory study of canned salmon and tuna supplies in the homes of 26 cities in the Memphis metropolitan area was sponsored by the Commercial Appeal and the Press-Scimitar.

Nearly 40 per cent of the homes that had canned tunafish on their pantry shelves reported that four or more cans of this food were consumed each month. At the same time, the consumption of four or more cans of salmon was reported by about 42 per cent of the homes with that item on hand. The sample surveyed consisted of active buying families representing all major occupational groups and accounting for 5 per cent of the Memphis metropolitan market.

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Under this program, goods purchased by the government and held as reserves would not later be so disposed of as to affect the commercial trade but would be distributed through such channels and for such purposes as would not affect the commercial market.

Total Purchases to be Announced Periodically

With respect to keeping the trade informed currently about the progress of the government purchases, Milo Perkins, Administrator of the Surplus Marketing Administration, and President of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, stated at his April 14 conference that all the operations of the Surplus Marketing Administration had been conducted so far "in a goldfish bowl". He pointed out, however, that the British naturally did not wish to have divulged either the volume or the specific kinds of food materials that might be accumulated for their use. Mr. Perkins stated that his office, therefore, in carrying on the purchase program, would announce at short intervals total quantities bought by the Surplus Marketing Administration but that there would be no information as to the amounts bought for any one of the several purposes for which they might be used.

In addition to the purchase of 15,000,000 cases of canned tomatoes, around which most of the discussion revolved, Mr. Perkins told the conference that the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation will purchase relatively small quantities of canned peas, corn, and green beans. The volume of such commodities to be purchased is not so large that the government considers it necessary to take any measures to stimulate acreage. Mr. Perkins said that the total quantities of the canned vegetables, aside from tomatoes, might represent, roughly, 2,000,000 cases of peas, 1,500,000 cases of beans, and perhaps up to 1,000,000 cases of sweet corn. Any purchase of these commodities will be on a spot basis and there is no intention to make future contracts.

Long-range Aspect of Program

The situation with respect to food, Mr. Perkins said, is very different from that relating to munitions. At the end of the war the demand for munitions will cease abruptly but the demand for food will just be starting. He said that canners and others in the food industries must realize the importance of the long-range factor and should direct their thinking in terms of at least a decade. The United States will have a large share in the responsibility of feeding disorganized populations abroad after the war and in order to preserve stability and prevent chaos, provision of food will be essential.

In discussing the effect of the increase to growers in the price of tomatoes, Mr. Perkins emphasized the view of the Surplus Marketing Administration that in considering bids from canners the increased price to the growers would be a factor. He stated, however, that the Surplus Marketing Administration is not interested in increasing canners' margins and that while it does not wish canners to operate without profit, Mr. Perkins stated it as his view that profits should come from the increased volume on a narrow margin rather than from increased margins on a small volume.

In concluding his presentation of the problem to the canners Mr. Perkins said:

"We have two or three major responsibilities: The first is to get 15 million cases of tomatoes. The second is to assure satisfactory but not runaway prices to growers. The third is not to disrupt prices to consumers."

Following Mr. Perkins' presentation of the problem, considerable time was given to discussion of a number of questions including those relating to acreage allotments under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, cooperation from government agencies in securing increased tomato acreage from farmers, the effect of the increased price to growers proposed by the government, and various provisions that might be embodied in contracts for both spot and future purchases. The Surplus Marketing Administration press release following the April 14-15 conferences, the story in last week's *INFORMATION LETTER*, and the provisions in the spot contract already mailed to tomato canners indicate the nature of the decisions reached.

Offers of Spot Stocks Invited

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation sent out to tomato canners under date of April 21 the announcement of its intention to purchase spot quantities of canned tomatoes and invited the submittal of offers for delivery during the period beginning May 12 and ending June 30, 1941, both dates inclusive. All offers for sale are required to be in the hands of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, Washington, D. C., on or before 1 p. m., E. S. T., May 1, and are to be conditioned upon acceptance by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation on or before May 3. Offers are to be submitted on forms accompanying the invitations. The announcement furnished the following information:

Offers are to be for any quantity and can size of canned tomatoes meeting the requirements of Grades B and C as defined in "U. S. Standards for Grades of Canned Tomatoes," effective April 1, 1941. It is understood that samples drawn for inspection will be furnished without cost to the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. Approximately 12 cans per 1,000 cases of No. 2 or No. 2½ size cans will be needed for each inspection, provided lots are of adequate size and uniformity.

Offerers are requested to state in the offer form a daily rate of delivery beginning on the specified date. This provision is made in order that Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation shipping orders may be geared to each offerer's capacity to deliver. Careful consideration of this item is requested as prompt delivery will be expected after issuance of the notice to deliver during the sixty-day delivery period specified.

Canned tomatoes to be delivered shall be packed in new corrugated or fiber cases acceptable to common or other domestic carriers for safe transportation at the lowest rates in effect. In instances where the option to deliver in double-strapped solid fiber cases is exercised by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, such cases shall be made from 100 point, or better, solid fiber board having a minimum strength test of 400 pounds per square inch. It is also desired that the strapping of such case shall be lengthwise wherever possible.

Payment for canned tomatoes delivered to Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation will be made as soon as practicable

after a correct claim on form approved by Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation is submitted for each shipment. If claim is properly prepared, payment may be expected within twenty days after receipt of such claim. Instructions for preparing claims and approved specimen forms will be transmitted to successful bidders at time of acceptance.

Offerers are required to furnish an acceptable surety bond or certified check to the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation in the amount of 10 per cent of the value of the award under the offer, or \$1,000, whichever is greater, payable to Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, and conditioned on the faithful performance of each of the provisions of the contract resulting from the acceptance of the offer. The bond or certified check is to be furnished within 10 days after the date of the acceptance of the offer.

Effect of Purchases on Prices

A sidelight on the Surplus Marketing Administration's view of the effect of the purchase program on the consumer is contained in the radio broadcast of April 21, on the National Farm and Home Hour. According to the Surplus Marketing Administration radio statement:

"The extra price of three dollars a ton will mean about one-third of a cent added to the cost of the ordinary size can of tomatoes that you'll buy at the store. Now—other costs are reported to be going up—so that next fall you might have to pay a little more than a third of a cent increase in the price you are now paying for a No. 2 can of tomatoes. But the important thing to remember is that only about a third of a cent of the increase in the cost per can will be due to the additional price paid the grower. You know, in the last three years or so the retail price of canned tomatoes has been mighty low."

Complaint Against Fresh Spinach Handlers Issued

Alleging price fixing and other restraint of trade practices in the interstate sale of fresh broadleaf spinach, the Federal Trade Commission issued a complaint against Pacific Fruit & Produce Co. and four other Walla Walla, Wash., shippers, four Chicago jobbers, and a Minneapolis broker operating through a Chicago branch.

Broadleaf spinach is a distinct variety grown almost exclusively in the Walla Walla region and packed and handled only by the respondent shippers. The bulk of this spinach, according to the complaint, is sold directly to canners, although large quantities are shipped fresh to the Chicago market where a sale for this particular type of spinach is readily found.

The complaint charges that the respondents fixed the resale prices of the spinach in the Chicago area, fixed the prices paid to growers, and prorated the tonnage of this product throughout the season. The complaint alleges that the respondents' agreement, understanding, combination, and conspiracy had the effect of unduly restricting competition, in the purchase and sale of broadleaf spinach in commerce, of enabling the respondents to control and monopolize such business, of preventing competing jobbers in Chicago from purchasing such product, and of enhancing the retail price of fresh broadleaf spinach in Chicago and the surrounding area, all in violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

Prevention of Molds in Seed Germination Tests

Treatment of the seed with protective chemicals to prevent the growth of molds and fungi in germination tests is recommended by analysts in the seed testing laboratory of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva as being the only way to insure satisfactory results in the home testing of seeds. Where the tests are made in the soil, the seedlings frequently "damp-off," while tests made on paper or cloth towels rolled into "dolls" are often overgrown with molds which prevent an accurate evaluation of the germination percentage.

Where the test is to be made in soil, treating the seed with cuprous oxide or with "Semesan" will make possible a satisfactory germination test with most seeds, according to the Experiment Station. Cuprous oxide, however, may injure seed placed in paper or cloth rolls. For these latter tests, much evidence is available to show that "Barbak C"; a mixture of mercuric chloride and talc; "Merko"; mercurous chloride, better known as calomel; a mixture of 1 part "New Improved Ceresan" to 4 parts talc; "New Improved Semesan, Kr."; "Semesan"; or a mixture of 1 part "Spergon" to 2 parts talc will control all superficial mold growth.

All of these materials are dusts and are applied by shaking the seeds and a small amount of the dust together in a closed jar. The excess dust should then be removed by shaking the treated seeds in a small tea strainer or coarse cloth.

A more rapid and convenient method of treatment that is gaining in popularity in seed houses where speed, safety, and efficiency are essential consists of dipping the seeds in a water solution of mercuric chloride or of "New Improved Ceresan." The solutions contain 1 level teaspoonful of the powdered mercuric chloride in 6 quarts of water or 1 level teaspoonful of New Improved Ceresan in 3 quarts of water. The seeds are simply immersed in the solution, immediately recovered by pouring off the solution, and are then placed on the germinating medium.

Wisconsin Pea-Grading Bill Killed

The Assembly of the Wisconsin legislature last week refused to reconsider a vote it had previously taken indefinitely postponing action on the pea-grading bill. By refusing to reconsider its action the Assembly killed the bill for this session of the legislature. The bill was opposed by the entire Wisconsin canning industry.

During the past week hearings were held before the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Education and Public Welfare on a bill to permit the use of harmless vegetable colors or certified coal-tar colors in the canning of fruits and vegetables. The present Wisconsin food laws prohibit the addition of artificial coloring in the case of all canned products.

Cultural Practices for Sweet Corn

Cultural practices aimed at obtaining better yields of sweet corn are discussed in a mimeographed release issued at the recent school for canners and fieldmen held at the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station in March. These include information on fertilizers, seed bed and planting, spacing, rate of planting, seed treatment, etc. The Raw Products Bureau has a few copies of this release which members may obtain upon request directed to the Bureau.

DISTRIBUTION CONFERENCE PLANS

Government Agencies Prepare Factual Data for Study at Meeting on May 2

A number of government agencies are participating in the preparations that are being made for the conference of business and government representatives called by Secretary of Commerce Jesse H. Jones for May 2 to discuss problems arising from the defense program related to the distribution to the public of food, clothing, and textiles. Latest factual data on certain consumer goods covering supply and demand, price movements, industrial capacities and supplies of raw materials will be made available to those attending the conference through addresses, wall charts, and summary statements on individual commodities having unusual characteristics as to recent trends.

Cooperating with the Department of Commerce in preparing this information for manufacturers and distributors of consumer goods who will attend the conference are the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, the Office of Production Management, the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of the Census.

Invitations were issued last week to about 350 business leaders and to 100 national trade associations. Acceptances already received indicate a large attendance. The National Cannery Association will be represented at the meeting by Marc C. Hutchinson, Michigan Fruit Cannery, Inc., Fennville, Mich.; Frank Gerber, Fremont Canning Co., Fremont, Mich.; and W. F. Dietrich, Minnesota Valley Canning Co., Le Sueur, Minn.

Seventeen different groups of commodities are to be discussed at the four Round Table Meetings which will comprise the afternoon session of the conference after the present general situation as to production, supplies, price trends, etc., of foods, textiles, and clothing has been covered in addresses by government and business leaders at the morning session. The speakers at the morning session were listed in last week's INFORMATION LETTER. Discussion at the four round tables will be confined in general to four or five commodity groups.

The groups represented at the Food Round Table will be meats, dry groceries, fresh fruits and vegetables, and dairy products. Milo Perkins, Administrator of the Surplus Marketing Administration, will act as chairman at this meeting, and there will be two discussion leaders, one a manufacturer and one a distributor. A specialist in the Department of Commerce has prepared a statement on canned foods, which provides factual data necessary to form the basis of discussion.

Rhode Island Food Bill Conforms to Federal Act

A bill substantially in conformance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act has been introduced in the Rhode Island legislature. The bill, House Bill 1031, provides for a single standard of quality, contains no registration or permit provisions, authorizes special consideration for the several varieties of canned fruits and vegetables, permits the acceptance of a guarantee signed by any resident of the United States, and allows the shipment in interstate commerce of unlabeled foods for labeling or repacking.

Field Work of Home Economics Division

The members of the staff of the Association's Home Economics Division have traveled extensively since the January meeting. In every city, Ruth Atwater, Marjorie H. Black, and Katherine Smith made contacts with school, college and university groups, with homemakers through their club organizations such as the Parent-Teacher Association, with Federated Clubs, and with extension groups. In addition, talks were given before an Advertising Club, Manufacturers' Industrial Show, Restaurant Association, a State Dietetic and State Home Economics Association and before several State canners' meetings. The staff gave 12 broadcasts as guests in nine different cities.

The field work covered a total travel period of 17 weeks. The cities visited included: Chicago, Kansas City, Missouri; Lawrence, Topeka and Manhattan, Kansas; Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, Littleton, Colorado; Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah; Reno, Nevada; San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, San Jose, Del Monte, California; Columbus, Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio; New York City; Providence, Rhode Island; Boston and Newton, Mass.; Portland, Orono and Farmington, Maine; Omaha, Nebraska; Deadwood and Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Indianapolis, Indiana; Richmond, Roanoke, Radford, Blacksburg and Williamsburg, Virginia.

Miss Atwater spoke at the Utah Cannery Meeting, Ogden, Utah, and at the Cannery League Meeting at Del Monte, California. Miss Black spoke at the Indiana State Cannery Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana. At each of these State meetings the members of the staff spoke about the work of the Division and its services to the industry.

One of the results of the field work has been to stimulate requests for the publications of the Division. In addition to this increase in requests, a wider distribution of publications was made possible owing to the increased appropriation granted at the convention in January.

Work in the Service Kitchen has continued along the two general lines, that of developing recipes for consumer booklets, and that of developing or testing recipes for individual canners.

Louisiana Tomato Production Costs

Some of the factors affecting the costs and returns from tomatoes grown in North Louisiana are discussed in Bulletin 329 issued recently by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. The factors studied included growing and harvesting costs, relation of the size of the enterprise to costs and returns, relation of yields and of prices received to costs and returns, and factors affecting tomatoes yields, including relation of amount of fertilizer, use of manure, and uses of dusts or sprays.

Hearings on Hours of Loaders and Drivers' Helpers

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced that it will hold public hearings in Chicago on May 19 for the purpose of prescribing qualifications and maximum hours of service for mechanics, loaders, and drivers' helpers employed by common, contract, and private motor carriers. Regulations prescribing maximum hours of service and qualifications for drivers of common, contract, and private motor carriers are in effect.

Coordination of Price and Purchasing Agencies

Full coordination of activities of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply and of the Purchasing Division of the Office of Production Management was arranged this week, according to a joint statement of the executives of the two organizations. Duplication of activities and efforts of the two agencies will be avoided, and each agency will keep the other completely informed as to its activities.

In identical memoranda to their staff members, Leon Henderson, Administrator of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, and Donald M. Nelson, Director of Purchases of the Office of Production Management, agreed upon the following working arrangements:

"The Division of Purchases will inform OPACS of the procurement plans and proposals of government purchasing agencies and departments coming within its scope which might influence price stability or affect the supply of goods for civilians.

"Recommendations that OPACS may make in regard to such plans will be made through the Division of Purchases.

"OPACS will keep the Division of Purchases informed of all price investigations and proposed regulations that might influence procurement for defense.

"The Division of Purchases will not clear proposed contracts in which the prices do not conform to regulations set by OPACS, unless OPACS approves such contracts.

"All facilities and information of each agency will be made available to the other, and staff members will consult freely on matters coming within the range of their activity.

"Each agency will appoint a liaison officer to maintain close contact and to facilitate consultation with the other agency."

E. G. McDougall Will Retire

E. G. McDougall, Chairman of the Board of Libby, McNeill & Libby, has announced that he will retire from this position on May 31st.

Mr. McDougall has had a remarkable record with this long-established firm. Following the Spanish-American War and subsequent to war experience in the Philippines, he accepted a clerkship with this company and by successive steps rose to the presidency, in which position he served for 18 years. Despite the many exacting duties of this position Mr. McDougall found time to render active, unselfish service for the canning industry through the National Canners Association, in which he has held a number of important positions. He was the second chairman of the Executive Committee, succeeding the late R. I. Bentley. He resigned from this chairmanship but has remained an active member of the committee.

Mr. McDougall has always brought to the Association's work the keen mind and winning personality that have won him a high place in the regard of those in the business world. During his active association work the industry has faced many serious problems in the solution of which he has been one of the outstanding leaders. He has always approached these problems from the standpoint of the entire industry without any regard for personal interest.

All of his friends will join in wishing him the well-deserved rest and contentment which are the compensation for a well-spent business life.

GRADE LABELING ENFORCEMENT

Policy Followed by Food and Drug Administration in Making Seizures

Because of the publicity given to the activities of the Food and Drug Administration with reference to seizures resulting from allegedly improper label statements of grade, numerous inquiries have come to the Association concerning the basis of such seizures and the policy of the Administration in the enforcement of the proper use of grade designations.

It is understood that seizures have been made where label designations of grade have been by use of words, such as "Fancy," and also by use of symbols, such as "A." The fact that action has been taken by the Food and Drug Administration on account of the label statement of grade has apparently led some canners to believe that grade standards, or definitions, have been formulated under the provisions of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. This is not the case except insofar as, under the authority of the Act, a single standard of quality has been established in the case of a few products.

Grades expressed as "Fancy," "Choice," and "Standard," or synonymously "A," "B," and "C," however, have been described for a number of products in the standards prepared by the Agricultural Marketing Service. Such grades have been in use principally for commercial purposes and their enforcement is not the duty of the Food and Drug Administration except insofar as their use on the label may be misleading to the consumer. The authority of the Food and Drug Administration to take action in such cases is derived from the general misbranding provisions of the Act.

In the seizures which have been made on grounds of misstatement of grades, the Food and Drug Administration has taken cognizance of the fact that there are definitions of grade in public use. This has led to the position that label statements of grade, whether designated by words or symbols, are misleading to the consumer, and the product therefore misbranded, unless the quality of the canned product meets the definition for the grade stated. This is true whether the grading which has led to the label statement of grade has been done by an official agency, or by the canner, or distributor.

Chain, Variety, and General Store Sales in March

Comparisons of sales during March, 1941, in chain groceries, variety stores, and general merchandise stores in rural areas showed considerable increases over the preceding month and March, 1940, according to figures compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Chain grocery store sales established a new high record in March, when they were approximately 14 per cent above March of last year, and 3 per cent larger than February, 1941.

Variety store sales in March were about 8 per cent larger than in February and were about 1 per cent larger than in March of last year. Sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas were about 7 per cent larger in March than in February, and about 9 per cent above March, 1940.

TAX PROPOSALS CONSIDERED

House Committee Receives Treasury Department's New Tax Recommendations

The House Ways and Means Committee began consideration this week of proposals suggested by the Treasury Department to raise \$3,600,000,000 in additional taxes. Public hearings were begun by the Committee on Thursday with Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. as the first witness, followed by Assistant Secretary John L. Sullivan.

Mr. Sullivan presented to the Committee a detailed outline of the Department's recommendations, which include a new system of surtaxes starting at 11 per cent on individual taxable incomes and surtaxes of 6 per cent on corporations earning more than \$25,000 and 5 per cent on corporations earning less than that sum. This new surtax on corporations would be for the purpose of reaching income from partially exempt government securities.

Although the Treasury officials made no specific recommendations for changes in the excess profits tax, they did suggest that Congress raise an additional \$400,000,000 through that medium. Following further study, the Treasury Department said it would be prepared to submit definite suggestions.

Among other recommendations made to the Committee were proposed increases in the tobacco and gasoline taxes and other excise taxes, revisions in the estate and gift taxes, and excise levies on several new items in the luxury class.

Secretary Morgenthau, in the course of questioning by Committee members, urged that appropriations for soil conservation activities, the National Youth Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and public works be reexamined, along with all other non-defense items, with a view to saving \$1,000,000,000 annually.

Bill Would Permit Corn-Acreage Increase

Congressman August H. Andresen of Minnesota introduced a bill (H.R. 4439) on Monday to permit corn producers during the 1941 and 1942 seasons to grow and harvest sweet corn for market and for canning and field corn for livestock feed on the farm without losing their rights to parity payments and loans under the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The bill, however, would not permit the farmer to exceed his allotted soil-depleting acreage, but would allow him to exceed his farm acreage allotment for corn to the extent that the corn is used on the farm or produced for human consumption.

Oklahoma Senate Passes Food and Drug Bill

The Oklahoma State Senate has passed a proposed food, drug, and cosmetic act similar to the Federal law. The bill, however, does not contain adequate statements of legislative intent to enact a uniform law, limits the application of guarantees to intrastate transactions, fails to contain an exemption for the shipment of unlabeled products that are to be processed, labeled, or repacked, and contains no restriction on the period of time that an embargoed product may be held by enforcement officials. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for such action as it may care to take.

FEBRUARY EARNINGS RISE

Labor Department Figures Show Increases in Most Average Weekly and Hourly Earnings

Average hourly earnings in manufacturing industries continued to rise to new high levels during February, according to Department of Labor statistics. Each of the 90 manufacturing industries surveyed and all of the nonmanufacturing industries, with one exception, reported higher average hourly earnings than in February, 1940. Weekly earnings were substantially larger in February, 1941, than in February, 1940, as a result of a longer workweek and increased hourly earnings.

The rise in hourly earnings is attributed by the Department of Labor to: (1) increased overtime payments; (2) rising employment in higher paid defense industries; and (3) wage increases.

Average hourly earnings for the canning and preserving industry were 51.3 cents in February, 1941; representing an increase of 4.5 per cent over February, 1940, but showing a decrease of one-tenth of one per cent below January, 1941. Average weekly earnings of the canning and preserving industry were \$17.23 and the average hours worked per week were 33.7. The weekly earnings were 5.2 per cent above February, 1940, and 3 per cent above January, 1941. Weekly hours during February, 1941, were 2.5 per cent less than during February, 1940, but were 3 per cent greater than during January, 1941.

Average hours, average weekly and hourly earnings, which are compiled monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, conceal many important differences between individual plants and between individual employees in the same establishment, according to the Bureau. The information on individual differences in hours and earnings is secured at irregular intervals for certain of the more important industries. The Bureau has not been able to compile such data regularly, being limited to presenting combined industry averages each month. These averages may vary slightly from month to month owing to changes in the size and composition of the reporting sample, but they are considered adequate for measuring levels and trends. The Bureau also notes with respect to the statistics that inasmuch as not all reporting firms furnish man-hour data, average hours and average hourly earnings are based on reports from a smaller number of establishments than average weekly earnings.

The following table shows the average weekly earnings, average hours worked per week, and average hourly earnings for all durable goods industries, all nondurable goods industries, the food and kindred products group of industries, and for the various industries within this classification:

Industry	Average weekly earnings	Average hours worked per week	Average hourly earnings
	Dollars	Hours	Cents
Durable goods.....	32.95	41.6	79.2
Nondurable goods.....	23.16	38.3	62.1
Food and kindred products.....	25.25	39.5	65.1
Canning and preserving.....	17.23	33.7	51.3
Baking.....	26.73	41.6	64.1
Beverages.....	33.72	38.0	88.9
Butter.....	23.35	45.2	51.2
Confectionery.....	20.04	38.8	52.3
Flour.....	25.66	41.3	61.6
Ice cream.....	30.19	44.6	66.6
Slaughtering and meat packing.....	26.70	39.0	68.5
Sugar, beet.....	26.28	37.1	77.9
Sugar refining, cane.....	25.47	35.6	65.3

In the following table are shown for the same industries as the previous table, the percentage changes in weekly and hourly earnings and in weekly hours worked from February, 1940, to February, 1941, and from January, 1941, to February, 1941:

Industry	Change in weekly earnings from—		Change in weekly hours from—		Change in hourly earnings from—	
	Feb. 1940 to Feb. 1941	Jan. 1941 to Feb. 1941	Feb. 1940 to Feb. 1941	Jan. 1941 to Feb. 1941	Feb. 1940 to Feb. 1941	Jan. 1941 to Feb. 1941
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Durable goods.....	+16.8	+3.3	+10.2	+2.6	+5.6	+ .6
Nondurable goods.....	+7.7	+2.7	+4.3	+2.6	+2.8	+ .1
Food and kindred products.....	+3.3	+1.4	+ .4	+1.4	+2.7	+ .4
Canning and preserving.....	+5.2	+3.0	-2.5	+3.0	+4.5	- .1
Baking.....	+3.8	+ .7	+1.7	+1.3	+2.2	- .3
Beverages.....	+3.4	+2.3	+ .6	+2.7	+2.6	- .2
Butter.....	+3.9	+1.7	+1.7	+1.4	+3.1	+ .1
Confectionery.....	+7.6	+3.7	+2.2	+3.0	+4.3	+ .9
Flour.....	+2.5	+1.5	+ .6	+ .7	+1.5	+1.3
Ice cream.....	+2.9	+1.1	+ .1	+1.5	+2.5	- a
Slaughtering and meat packing.....	+ .4	- .3	- .9	- .9	+1.1	+ .6
Sugar, beet.....	-13.0	+13.7	-6.6	+1.7	+ .3	+23.7
Sugar refining, cane.....	- .9	+2.8	-1.0	+2.4	+ .1	+ .4

a Less than one-tenth of one per cent.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported to the Agricultural Marketing Service by Common Carriers

Carlot shipments of fresh tomatoes were larger during the week ending April 19, 1941, than during the corresponding week of 1940, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Shipments of all other fresh vegetables competing directly with canned vegetables, and of citrus fruits, were smaller than during the corresponding week of last year.

The following table, compiled from statistics of the Agricultural Marketing Service, gives detailed comparisons of carlot shipments on certain dates of selected vegetables and fruits:

VEGETABLES	Week ending—		Season total to—	
	April 19, 1940	April 19, 1941	April 12, 1940	April 19, 1941
Beans, snap and lima.....	161	45	47	2,424
Tomatoes.....	250	262	570	4,594
Green peas.....	214	204	9	1,822
Spinach.....	226	176	289	4,936
Others:				
Domestic, competing directly.....	1,631	1,412	2,387	34,705
Imports competing directly.....	24	13	54	242
Imports competing indirectly.....	27	27	45	2,546
FRUITS				
Citrus, domestic.....	3,782	3,624	4,012	103,022
Others, domestic.....	628	401	88	17,305

Last of Railroad Land Grant Claims Released

In accordance with provisions of the Transportation Act of 1940, the Northern Pacific Railroad last week closed out its land grant claims against the Federal government. In approving the release of the claims held by the Northern Pacific, the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior pointed out that the release covered the last and largest of the railroad land grants. The relinquishment of the claims will permit the railroad to charge increased rates on certain government freight and passenger business.

CANNING CROP REPORTS

Agricultural Marketing Service Issues Figures on 1941 Intended Acreage

Reports compiled from information received from canners and processors of truck crops for commercial processing—including tomatoes, beets, cabbage for sauerkraut, and cucumbers for pickles—were issued April 24 by the Agricultural Marketing Service. These reports follow:

Tomatoes for Processing

According to reports received from tomato canners and processors by the Agricultural Marketing Service during the first half of April, an increase of 2.6 per cent over last year's planted acreage was indicated for the 1941 season. Most of these reports were received in advance of the Department's announcement on April 17 of the program to expand the production of tomatoes for canning to provide an increase of 15,000,000 cases of canned tomatoes over the pack of 1940. Accordingly, the small increase indicated in this report is considered to be representative only of canners' intentions to plant before they were asked by the Department to expand their operations. Changes in these plans will be reflected in the report of planted acreage which will be released by the Agricultural Marketing Service on July 11.

The following table provides figures on 1940 planted acreage and 1941 intended acreage:

STATE	Planted Acreage		Intended in 1941	
	10-year (1930-1939) Average	1940	As percent of 1940	Acres Indicated
	Acres	Acres	Per cent	Acres
New York.....	16,370	20,500	.....	.....
New Jersey.....	33,800	33,800	.....	.....
Pennsylvania.....	10,980	19,600	.....	.....
	61,240	73,900	102.3	75,000
Ohio.....	16,520	24,500	.....	.....
Indiana.....	78,100	74,500	.....	.....
Illinois.....	9,310	8,900	.....	.....
Michigan.....	3,980	4,700	.....	.....
Iowa.....	5,980	4,800	.....	.....
Missouri.....	18,810	16,300	.....	.....
	132,700	133,700	100.7	142,700
Delaware.....	12,510	9,000	.....	.....
Maryland.....	51,810	47,800	.....	.....
Virginia.....	20,190	22,200	.....	.....
	84,510	79,000	103.2	81,500
Kentucky.....	5,730	4,000	.....	.....
Tennessee.....	10,220	6,400	.....	.....
Arkansas.....	20,740	18,300	.....	.....
	36,690	28,700	89.5	25,700
Colorado.....	3,120	2,900	.....	.....
Utah.....	5,970	7,300	.....	.....
California.....	53,440	71,530	.....	.....
	62,530	81,730	102.4	83,700
Other States.....	18,770	19,210	93.1	17,890
Total All States.....	396,440	416,240	102.6	427,000

Beets for Canning

According to reports received by the Service from canners of beets giving information on the acreage of canning beets they have in mind for 1941, plantings will total 16,950 acres. This is an increase of 27 per cent above the 1940 plantings of 13,350 acres and compares with average plantings for the preceding 10-year (1930-39) period of 8,520 acres.

The abandonment of planted acreage for the 10-year (1931-40) period averaged about 9 per cent. If losses should occur in 1941 from unfavorable growing conditions about in line with average losses suffered during the preceding 10-year (1931-40) period, the total of 16,950 acres indicated for this season's plantings would result in about 15,400 acres for harvest. The 1940 harvested acreage was 12,180 acres and for the preceding 10-year (1930-39) period, the harvested acreage averaged 7,740 acres.

Cabbage for Sauerkraut

Kraut packers, reporting to the Service regarding the acreage they intend to contract, or plant, for the 1941 season, indicate an increase of 4 per cent above 1940 in that portion of the total kraut acreage that is represented by contract or the packers' own plantings. If the plans of the reporting packers materialize, a total of 10,760 acres will be contracted or planted for kraut in 1941, compared with 10,290 acres planted under contract in 1940. Of the total 1940 plantings of 10,290 acres, it is estimated that 9,540 acres were harvested.

Most of the reporting kraut packers also purchase a large portion of their tonnage requirements on the open market. No information is available at this time regarding the probable tonnage that packers will purchase in 1941 from acreage not under contract. This open-market acreage represents an appreciable part of the total utilized for kraut each year. During recent years it has ranged from 44 per cent to 63 per cent of the total acreage utilized for kraut manufacture. Some approximation of the probable acreage from which open market purchases will be made in 1941 will be shown in the July report.

Cucumbers for Pickles

An increase of nearly 10 per cent in the acreage of cucumbers contracted or planted for pickles is in prospect for this season if pickle packers carry out their early April plans. On the basis of reports received by the Service, it is indicated that the 1941 acreage to be planted to pickling cucumbers may total 124,770 acres compared with 106,020 acres planted in 1940 and the average for the preceding 10-year (1930-39) period of 88,130 acres.

The loss of acreage planted to pickling cucumbers has averaged about 9 per cent for the 10-year (1931-40) period. If a 9 per cent loss is assumed for 1941, in line with the average for the 10-year (1931-40) period, the 124,770 acres in prospect for planting this year will result in about 113,500 acres for harvest. The acreage harvested in 1940 was 94,840 acres and for the preceding 10-year (1930-39) period, the harvested acreage averaged 80,560 acres.

Handbook on Operation of Priorities Issued

A handbook on the operation of the priorities system has been prepared for general distribution by the Division of Information, of the Office for Emergency Management, Social Security Building, Washington, D. C. It may be obtained upon application to the Division.

The booklet is called "Priorities and Defense" and includes a general statement of the theory and administration of the priorities system, a question and answer section, a copy of the "priorities critical list," the official instructions on priorities, reproduction of preference rating forms, and other material.

Season's Pea Shipments 5,000,000 Cases Larger

Shipments of canned peas out of canners' hands during the present season were 5,176,091 cases more than shipments during the preceding season, June 1, 1939, to April 1, 1940, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. Shipments during March, 1941, were nearly 500,000 cases larger than shipments during March, 1940, and stocks on April 1, 1941, were over 800,000 cases smaller than stocks on April 1, 1940.

The following table compares stocks and shipments on these dates:

	1939-40	1940-41
	Cases	Cases
Total stocks April 1.....	5,261,454	4,421,657
Shipments during March.....	1,883,509	2,376,511
Shipments June 1 to April 1.....	18,491,142	23,667,233

In the following table are shown by regions and varieties the stocks and shipments of canned peas:

	Stocks April 1		Shipments during March		Shipments June 1 to April 1	
	1940	1941	1940	1941	1939-40	1940-41
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
N.Y. and Me.:						
Alaskas.....	27,406	25,520	5,857	11,406	116,217	168,781
Sweets.....	420,635	435,960	234,540	229,986	1,450,119	2,045,023
Mid-Atlantic:						
Alaskas.....	52,733	121,247	29,380	115,861	1,206,593	2,002,112
Sweets.....	81,881	56,424	2,102	58,598	181,660	523,648
Mid-West:						
Alaskas.....	1,035,367	1,335,432	422,879	667,951	5,333,404	7,438,054
Sweets.....	1,854,785	1,519,226	505,373	663,218	4,929,132	6,143,831
Western:						
Alaskas.....	7,097	5,544	1,267	3,916	150,082	85,542
Sweets.....	1,781,530	922,304	682,111	625,575	5,033,935	5,260,242
Total U. S.:						
Alaskas.....	1,122,603	1,487,743	459,383	799,134	6,806,296	9,694,489
Sweets.....	4,138,851	2,933,914	1,424,126	1,577,377	11,594,846	13,972,744

Stocks and Shipments of Canned Beets

Stocks of beets in canners' hands on April 1, 1941, were nearly 25,000 cases larger than on the corresponding date of 1940; seasonal shipments from July 1, 1940, to April 1, 1941, have been about 200,000 cases larger than during the preceding year; and shipments during the past three months have been about 250,000 cases larger than shipments during the corresponding months of 1940, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics.

The following table shows figures on stocks and shipments by regions:

	Stocks April 1		Shipments Jan. 1 to April 1		Shipments July 1 to April 1	
	1940	1941	1940	1941	1939-40	1940-41
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
East.....	404,509	380,219	250,312	507,948	812,065	1,262,593
Mid-West.....	227,884	215,913	397,507	336,280	1,127,046	1,105,983
West.....	108,445	168,216	62,020	127,712	286,100	349,145
Total....	740,838	764,348	709,839	971,946	2,225,811	2,717,721

Freight Car Loadings for Second Quarter

Freight car loadings for the second quarter of 1941 are expected to be 4.9 per cent above actual loadings for the corresponding period of 1940, according to figures compiled by the Shippers' Advisory Boards. An increase of 9.2 per cent is expected in freight car loadings of all canned food products, including catsup, jams, jellies, olives, pickles, preserves, etc.

S.M.A. Food Purchases During Week

The Surplus Marketing Administration of the Department of Agriculture announced the purchase of 15,005,884 pounds of canned pork and 25,413,000 pounds of cured pork during the past week. There were also purchased the following food products of interest to canners: Apples, 119,253 bushels; oranges, 6,468 boxes; grapefruit, 388 tons.

During the period April 1 to April 23, the Administration announced the purchase of a total of 104,500 bags of dry beans. On April 23 an additional 99,900 bags were bought. Pea beans were purchased from New York and Michigan; pintos from Colorado; black eyes from California; Great Northern from Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming; pinks from California.

The following table shows the amounts of these varieties purchased during the two periods indicated:

	April 1-23 Bags	April 23 Bags
Pea beans.....	26,000	17,000
Pintos.....	22,800	2,800
Blackeyes.....	17,700	11,300
Great Northern.....	24,500	64,000
Pinks.....	13,500	4,800
Total.....	104,500	99,900

Surplus Foods Designated for May

Fresh grapefruit, apples, carrots, and oranges, and dried prunes, raisins, and dry edible beans are among the agricultural commodities and products designated as surplus foods for exchange under the food stamp program during the month of May, according to announcement this week by the Surplus Marketing Administration.

The complete list of surplus foods available in all stamp plan areas is as follows: Butter, raisins, pork lard, pork, corn meal, shell eggs, hominy (corn) grits, dry edible beans, wheat flour and whole wheat (Graham) flour, dried prunes, Irish potatoes, fresh oranges, fresh carrots, fresh apples, and fresh grapefruit.

In addition to these commodities, vegetable shortening is available in a few specified counties of Texas, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

Summary of 1940 Pacific Salmon Pack

The 1940 pack of canned salmon in the Pacific, including Japan but excluding the Soviet pack for which figures are not available, totaled 8,855,314 cases, as compared with 9,759,265 in 1939, according to figures compiled by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The pack figures are on the basis of 48 one-pound cans to the case.

Of the total, 5,069,343 cases were packed in Alaska, 535,663 cases in the Pacific Coast States, 1,467,227 cases in British Columbia, and 1,783,081 cases in Japanese territory. The total United States and Alaska pack amounted to 5,605,006 cases in 1940, as compared with 5,991,999 cases in 1939.

The British Columbia pack figures were furnished by the Department of Fisheries at Vancouver, B. C. The Japanese figures were taken from the Pacific Fisherman Yearbook of 1941 and includes Japanese production in both Siberia and Japan.

Wholesale Stocks of Canned Milk

Stocks of evaporated milk (case goods) held by wholesale grocers at the end of the first quarter of 1941 (March 31) were considerably smaller than those of three months earlier, but much larger than stocks held at the end of the first quarter of 1940, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Reports received by the Service from 321 representative wholesalers showed combined stocks of 21,451,000 pounds on March 31, this year, as compared with 27,110,000 pounds at the end of December—a decrease of 21 per cent. Reports from 320 firms reporting for both this year and last, however, show combined stocks of 21,284,000 pounds on March 31 this year, compared with 17,837,000 pounds on the same date last year—an increase of 19 per cent.

Production of evaporated milk so far this year has been running slightly ahead of that of a year earlier, and considerably in excess of the 5-year (1935-1939) average. Stocks held by manufacturers on the first of January, February, and March were also larger than on the same dates last year, but due to the increased demand for shipments to Great Britain in the last month or so, stocks on the first of April are expected to be smaller than a year earlier.

Bill Provides Voluntary Grade Labeling of Poultry

A bill to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to furnish additional statistical information and marketing service for the benefit of the poultry industry has been introduced in the House by Representative Coffee of Nebraska. The bill (H. R. 4467) would permit the voluntary use of grade labels on consumer packages and would permit the collection of reasonable fees and charges by the Department for supervising the labeling of poultry and poultry products.

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